

SECRET

8 December 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Brzezinski, Secretary Vance,
Secretary Brown and Mr. Aaron, 8 December 1978, re
US Position on Iran []

1. I raised with this group the question of whether we were ready for the positions the country would have to take if the Shah does fall this weekend. I tried to open the discussion on the grounds that we needed to know [] [] The point was quickly accepted, however, that we would need a public US position on the new government, on the Shah, etc. A drafting session was already scheduled to try to correct the misinterpretation of the President's remarks of 7 December. This will be done at the 1200 State Department briefing for the press. It appeared that no thought had been given as to where to go next. []

2. Vance asked me whether I thought the Shah would fall. I said I thought there was less than a 50 percent chance that he would survive. It looked to me as though the demonstrations were very well organized and a high probability they would turn violent. I said we were concerned as to how big an effort the government would make to suppress the marching, etc. Clearly they had to suppress violence, but we thought it inadvisable that they attempt to stop the religious processions, etc. []

3. David Aaron was to chair a mini-SCC at 1100 to look at Iran and will take up these topics. []

STANSFIELD TURNER
Director

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